



101 South A Street, PO Box 155, Springfield, OR 97477
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May 16, 2025

RE: Support for Sierra Pacific Industries Capital Reinvestment Project and SIP Agreement

Dear Lane County Commissioners,

I urge your support for Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) proposed capital reinvestment project and Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreement. This \$253 million investment at the Eugene sawmill site represents one of the largest private industrial investments in Lane County history, and a clear signal of SPI's long-term commitment to our regional economy, stable family-wage jobs, and modern, sustainable manufacturing.

When public institutions support investments of this scale, the benefits extend far beyond a single employer. It builds confidence in Lane County as a place where private sector investment is met with a collaborative government response.

That confidence is critical. In today's highly competitive environment, employers like SPI, who maintain operations across the Pacific Northwest, have multiple options when deciding where to allocate capital. Their decision to invest in Lane County is one to be celebrated. Your support helps ensure that companies like SPI continue to choose Lane County for future investment and growth.

There are several concrete reasons to support this project:

- **SPI is one of the region's largest manufacturing employers, with a significant presence in Springfield.** In fact, 25% of the company's payroll and benefits support individuals and families living in Springfield, reinforcing their direct economic impact on homeownership and discretionary income that supports our local small businesses.
- **A significant portion of the investment will modernize equipment and facilities,** improving efficiency while enhancing worker health and safety.
- **At a time of structural deficits across local taxing districts,** this reinvestment will contribute to much needed growth Lane County's long-term tax base that funds critical public services and infrastructure.

SPI is not only a key employer, but also a valued community partner, investing in local workforce development, nonprofits, and public safety initiatives. Their civic leadership amplifies the impact of their economic role.

This project is an opportunity to reinforce Lane County's reputation as a region that values quality jobs, responsible reinvestment, and long-term economic health and for these reasons, I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mikkelsen'.

Vonnie Mikkelsen
President and CEO